

To: Sylvia Hamilton via email

Date: August 17, 2004

Subject: **August 13, 2004 Meeting Minutes**

A meeting of the Perchlorate Community Advisory Group was held at the San Martin Lions Club, 12415 Murphy Avenue, San Martin, on August 13, 2004 at 2 pm.

1. **Pledge:** The Chair, Ms. Sylvia Hamilton, led the Pledge.

2. **Administrative Items:**

- a. Additional Agenda Items
 - i. Gary Shallcross announcement added to section 2d
 - ii. Discussion of reverse osmosis fact sheet added to section 5a
 - iii. Suggest ways to thank the Lion Clubs for use of the Hall added to section 6d
- b. Interested parties should add their name and contact information to the sign-in sheet at the back table to get on the PCAG mailing list
- c. July 22 Meeting Minutes approve amendments with two corrections.
 - i. Meeting minutes date changed from June 11 to July 22
 - ii. Clarification in section 4a, Olin comes to PCAG meetings specifically to discuss their progress with the clean-up effort.
 - iii. Mr. Gary Shallcross announced his retirement.

3. **Presentations:**

- a. Peg Pinard, Supervisor, San Luis Obispo County
 - i. Ms. Peg Pinard introduced herself as a member of the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors, who is now running for State Senate District 15. She also praised PCAG for doing such a great job in dealing with the perchlorate problem in the area. In addition, she encouraged the audience for their participation, telling them not to underestimate the value of their comments and suggestions. Ms. Pinard is from the San Luis Obispo area and has been involved in government in the area for years. She has also worked closely with the Regional Board and the community as a part of the Avila beach clean-up project. The Avila beach project was started in response to large amount of process fuel that was dumped on the beach, a problem that took the community ten years to clean-up.
- b. Rosemary Kamei, Board Member, Santa Clara Valley Water District
 - i. Ms. Kamei is a member of the Board of Directors for the Santa Clara Valley Water District. She is also a current resident of Morgan Hill.
 - ii. Ms. Kamei attended the conference on perchlorate held by the Groundwater Resources Association of California and presented two conference issues:
 - (1) Perchlorate in the food chain
 - (2) The health effects portion of the conference
 - iii. Before beginning her presentation, Ms. Kamei emphasized that she was speaking as a conference attendee and not expressing the opinions of the Santa Clara Valley District.
 - iv. Ms. Kamei first shared a series of charts that contained information on perchlorate detection trends and how within the last five years there has been an increase in the number of perchlorate contamination cases.
 - v. Studies show that perchlorate is being found in foods such as lettuce and many other vegetables. Perchlorate is also being detected in milk because cows were being subjected to perchlorate in their own food.

- vi. Dr. Gina Solomon was the keynote speaker and said there are several chemicals such as perchlorate, nitrate, and thiocyanate which may have a significant affect on a person's health.
- vii. In the case of women who are pregnant, it would be especially harmful because perchlorate prevents the iodine uptake and the development of the thyroid hormone.
- viii. Aside from the fetus, infants or children that are still nursing are also at risk for developing a thyroid condition if they are constantly subjected to water that is contaminated with perchlorate. During infancy the human brain is developing rapidly and the infant is also going through a sensitive period for cretinism, both of which, if interfered with, can have severe consequences. In addition, perchlorate can also be detected and transmitted through the mother's breast milk. Perchlorate consumption by nursing mothers can lead to iodine deficiency in the mother's milk because perchlorate keeps iodine out of breast milk. It can also enter the infant's body and block iodine uptake to the infant's thyroid.
- ix. For more information about the Groundwater Resources Association's conference on perchlorate visit the conferences website. <http://www.grac.org>. Questions regarding the health effects of perchlorate which are addressed by the Perchlorate Medical Advisory Group (PMAG) contact Janie Burkhart of the County Health Department.
- x. Mr. David Athey also attended the conference and spoke about the bioremediation portion of the conference.
 - (1) There is the potential to use strontium ratios in groundwater to trace plume movement or differentiate sources of perchlorate..
 - (2) Discussion on natural versus artificial perchlorate in groundwater.
- c. Janie Burkhart, Perchlorate Medical Advisory Group (PMAG)
 - i. Ms. Burkhart began her presentation by handing out a fact sheet produced by PMAG about perchlorate and the harmful effects. She identified the main target to be people who are already exposed to perchlorate.
 - ii. PMAG is short on funds and is looking for community members to volunteer to distribute the fact sheets. She mentioned that schools are a nice way to get information out to people by having children take them home in their Friday folders that go out once a week to parents. Ms. Hamilton suggested that the fact sheets should only be distributed to schools that have homes in the contamination plume in order to not have people who are not affected panic. Ms. Burkhart added that there are two versions of the sheetCone in English and the other in Spanish. The group came up with the following suggestions on places to post the flyer: post offices, Gilroy Collaborative, public offices, Morgan Hill Chamber of Commerce, places of worship, County Public Health Offices, County Environmental Health Office, San Martin Neighborhood Alliance, Hispanic stores, and media outlets. An audience member suggested putting a plume map next to the flyers as not to panic the public who are not affected. Fact sheets will be mailed to anyone who is interested in distributing them. For more information, contact Janie Burkhart at (408) 885-7601.
- 4. **Regional Water Quality Control Board** (David Athey, Water Resources Control Engineer)
 - a. Discussion Topics:
 - i. Cleanup or Abatement Order (CAO) Status
 - ii. Onsite Soil Remediation
 - b. CAO Status: On August 4, 2004, Olin Corporation appealed the CAO to the State Water Resources Board. The case is currently under review at the State Board. The process could take nine months to a year or possibly even more. Meanwhile, Olin has said they will comply with requirements until the appeal has been decided, however they are not obligated to do so.

Q: Ms. Hamilton asked whether Olin disagreed with all or part of the CAO.

A: Mr. Athey replied that they appealed the whole order, disagreeing with everything.

Q: An audience member asked whether Olin will stop moving forward with the cleanup until the appeal has been decided.

A: Olin has agreed to work under the terms of the original agreement until the appeal has been decided. By law, they are not required to do so.

- i. Ms. Hamilton suggested that Mr. Jerry Orlando could write a summary of the CAO order and hand it out to the group before the next PCAG meeting in which Olin Corporation will be present. The Audience agreed that it was a good idea.

c. **Onsite Soil Remediation**

- i. Mr. Athey emphasized that this is an ongoing process. The final grant was approved on August 3, 2004. The Regional Board issued a revised monitoring and reporting program to Olin Corporation. Construction started on July 26, 2003.

5. **POU, POE, Wellhead treatment** (Tracy Hemmeter, Senior Project Manager, SCVWD)

- a. Ms. Hemmeter passed out an information sheet that was made by Mr. Jerry Orlando. The sheet had diagrams with the three different types of water treatment location options - POU, POE, and wellhead. In addition, she also passed out a draft of the reverse osmosis fact sheet that the Santa Clara Valley Water District is currently working on. She asked the audience and PCAG members to share their comments or suggestions.
 - i. The first water treatment location option is the Point of Use (POU), which treats the water at each point of use, usually a faucet in a house. Treated water flows only from that point of use.
 - ii. Point of Entry (POE) removes perchlorate as the water enters the building. Treated water flows from all sources within that building's distribution system.
 - iii. Wellhead treatment is designed to remove perchlorate at the wellhead. The treated water flows to all users of that particular well, including all points of use in all buildings using that well.
- b. Ms. Hamilton stressed the importance of the community being educated when it comes to dealing with Olin one-on-one about drinking water treatment issues.
- c. If anyone has any comments or suggestions for the reverse osmosis fact sheet, they should contact Sylvia Hamilton (408) 683-2667, Tracy Hemmeter (408) 265-2600 extension 2647, or Zohra Karimi (408) 265-2600, extension 2638. We would like the community's input on whether they find the fact sheet useful in helping them consider if a reverse osmosis system is right for them.

6. **Additional Topics**

- a. **Groundwater Guardian** (Tracy Hemmeter)
 - i. The Groundwater Guardian team will be submitting their annual report by August 31. They will be reporting on what PCAG has accomplished, including setting up repositories and websites, working with the media to keep the public informed about the Olin case, and producing fact sheets to educate the community about various issues dealing with perchlorate. Annual designations are awarded in November of each year.
- b. Ms. Hamilton mentioned that the San Martin Neighborhood Alliance is in need of funding and they are holding two fundraisers.
 - i. Classic Car Show – August 21, 11 am – 6 pm San Martin Country Park
Contact Ann (408) 683-2904

- ii. Vinum & Musica Laetificant Cor – September 19, 4 pm – 8 pm Clos LaChance Winery
Contact: Connie Ludewig (408) 857-3923
Sylvia Hamilton (408) 683-2667

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Zohra Karimi